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**CHINESE WORKERS MARCH
TOWARDS SOCIALISM**

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PREFACE

Under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the Chinese working class, which has gone through years of heroic struggle, has proved that it was not only the vanguard of the Chinese people in overthrowing the reactionary rule of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism, but is also the leading force in the construction of New China.

Over the past six years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese working class, united with the people of the entire country, has stepped onto the path of socialist construction, and begun to transform the face of the country, gradually improving the material and cultural life of the working people. The Chinese trade unions have done tremendous work in organizing and educating the workers.

However, we know that our industry has a very weak foundation, and our experience in building up modern industry is inadequate. The same can be said of our experience in trade union work in the period of construction. In order to reconstruct our country, we have gone through and overcome innumerable difficulties and have achieved the good results we have obtained today. We have only just begun our socialist

construction, and difficulties still lie in our way. Many shortcomings still exist in our trade union work, which we will continuously endeavour to overcome. But we have full confidence that we will be able to accomplish our work efficiently.

The Chinese working class and the people of the whole country are more confident of success today than at any time in the past. We are striving to turn our country into a great socialist land, and at the same time, in co-ordination with the workers and peace-loving people of other countries, we will play our part in the struggle for the solidarity and unity of the workers all over the world and in the defence of world peace.

THE ALL-CHINA FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

The All-China Federation of Trade Unions is the only central body of the Chinese trade union movement. It has more than 12,400,000 members, and has become a strong force in the peaceful construction of the People's Republic of China as well as an important part of the Asian and world trade union movement.

Before liberation, the Chinese workers were not allowed to form their own trade unions. But now, they are not only completely free to do so but also have this freedom confirmed in law. In 1950, the Central People's Government promulgated the Trade Union Law, defining in explicit terms the legal status of trade unions—the mass organizations of the working class. The Trade Union Law stipulates: All manual and non-manual workers whose wages constitute their sole or main means of livelihood, irrespective of nationality, sex, or religious belief, shall have the right to organize trade unions; trade union committees at all levels shall be set up by election at general membership meetings or representative conferences; the administration of the enterprise or the owner should inform the trade union organization in advance, if they want to dismiss workers or staff members. In the state-owned enterprises, trade

unions shall have the right to represent the workers and staff members in administering production and in concluding collective agreements with the managements. In private enterprises, trade unions shall have the right to represent the workers and staff members in conducting negotiations and talks and concluding collective agreements with the owners, and in participating in the work of the labour-capital consultative councils. Trade unions have the duty to protect the interests of workers and staff members, to ensure that the managements or owners effectively carry out all labour protection regulations, labour insurance, wage standards, factory sanitation and safety measures as stipulated in the laws and decrees of the Government and other relevant regulations and directives, and to take measures for improving the material and cultural life of the workers and staff members.

As the Chinese working class is the leading class in the state, the interest of the country and of the whole people is also the vital interest of the Chinese working class. The workers enjoy broad democratic rights; participating in the administration of state affairs, quite a number of workers have been elected deputies to the National People's Congress and the various local People's Congresses, while many others have been elected to the People's Councils of all levels. The Chinese trade unions represent the workers in drafting the laws and decrees concerning production and labour, as well as the material and cultural life of the workers; and they resolutely support and carry out all the policies, laws and decrees

which they have helped the People's Government to frame, functioning as a strong backbone of the people's democracy.

The present All-China Federation of Trade Unions—the highest leading body of the Chinese trade unions—was elected at the Seventh All-China Congress of Trade Unions.

Held in 1953, the Seventh Congress elected an Executive Committee of 99 full members and 42 candidate members, and an Auditing Commission of 17 members. Liu Shao-chi was elected Honorary President, Lai Jo-yu was elected President, and Liu Ning-I, Liu Chang-sheng and Chu Hsueh-fan Vice-Presidents. The 10 members of the Secretariat are: Lai Jo-yu, Liu Ning-I, Hsu Chih-chen, Chen Shao-min, Li Chieh-po, Liu Tse-chiu, Li Tsai-wen, Tung Hsin, Chang Wei-chen and Chang Hsiu-chu. The following departments have been set up within the All-China Federation of Trade Unions: General Office, Organization Department, Propaganda Department, Production Department, Wages Department, Labour Insurance Department, Department Concerned with Workers' Housing and General Living Standards, Labour Protection Department, Women Workers Department, International Liaison Department, Administration of Communal Labour Insurance Establishments, Finance Department, General Affairs Department, Physical Culture and Sports Department, Workers' Press, Workers' Daily, and Trade Union Functionaries Training School of ACFTU.

The Chinese trade unions are set up on the principle of industrial unionism. Members working in the same enterprise are organized in the same primary industrial trade union. For instance, in the Harbin Flax Mill, all the spinners, weavers, maintenance workers, printing and dyeing workers, technicians and staff members are organized in one primary trade union organization—the Working Committee of the Chinese Textile Workers' Trade Union in the Harbin Flax Mill.

On a national level all trade union members working in the same industrial branch of the national economy are organized in the same national industrial union. This makes it easier for the unions to function within the industrial framework of the country and so play their full part in solving the various problems connected with production as well as those in relation to working conditions, living and welfare and education. The national committee of each industrial union is elected by the national congress of the industrial union concerned. Local trade union organizations are also organized along industrial lines where there are enough workers to make this possible. The trade union councils at provincial, city, county or town level are formed from the various industrial unions and other local trade union organizations in the given province, city, county or town.

At the present time, under the leadership of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions there are 3 trade union councils of municipalities directly subordinate to the central authority, 22 provincial trade union councils, 2 trade union councils of an autonomous region, 163 city trade

union councils and various county or town trade union councils, in addition to 18 industrial unions. Among the industrial unions there are 13 which have national committees, viz, Railway Workers' Trade Union, Electrical Workers' Trade Union, Posts and Telecommunications Workers' Trade Union, Textile Workers' Trade Union, Coal Miners' Trade Union, Educational Workers' Trade Union, Commercial Workers' Trade Union, the Trade Union of Workers of the First Machinery Industry, the Trade Union of Workers of the Second Machinery Industry, Road Transport Workers' Trade Union, Heavy Industry Workers' Trade Union, Seamen's Trade Union and Petroleum Workers' Trade Union. Three have preparatory committees, viz, the Building Workers' Trade Union, the Agricultural and Water Conservancy Workers' Trade Union and the Forestry Workers' Trade Union. Two have working committees, viz, the Light Industry Workers' Trade Union and the Salt Industry Workers' Trade Union.

The trade union organization of China is built on the basis of democratic centralism in accordance with the Constitution of the Trade Unions of the People's Republic of China. The leading bodies of the trade unions at all levels are elected from the bottom up at the general membership meetings or at representative conferences, each committee electing the members of that directly above it. They should report their work at regular intervals to the membership through general membership meetings,

representative conferences and through their own papers, developing criticism and self-criticism, especially criticism from the bottom up, so that the work of the trade union organization is placed under the supervision of all the members. All trade union organizations must carry out their work in accordance with the Constitution of the Trade Unions and the decisions of their organizations, all such decisions are adopted by a majority vote of the members present at meetings of the union organization concerned. The lower organizations must carry out the decisions made by those above them. All sections are bound by the Constitution to report at regular intervals to the membership on their financial accounts. The leading bodies of the trade unions are strongly based on their local organizations and the broad mass of the members.

Over the past few years, membership of the Federation has increased rapidly. In 1949 the total membership was more than 2,373,000; in 1950, 5,170,000; in 1951, 7,297,000; in 1952, 10,200,000; in 1953, 12,229,000; in 1954, 12,454,000; in 1954 the trade unions of China had 200,000 primary organizations, with 2,730,000 members taking an exceptionally active part in the work.

BUILDING SOCIALISM

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the country has entered upon the road of transition to socialism. The Preamble of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China says: "From the founding of the People's Republic of China to the attainment of a socialist society is a period of transition. During the transition the fundamental task of the state is, step by step, to bring about the socialist industrialization of the country and, step by step, to accomplish the socialist transformation of agriculture, handicrafts and capitalist industry and commerce."

The First Five-Year Plan for Development of the National Economy of the People's Republic of China began from 1953. The implementation of the Plan is an important part of the general task of the state in the transition period—to lay, in five years, the preliminary groundwork for the socialist industrialization and socialist transformation of agriculture, handicrafts, as well as the groundwork for the socialist transformation of private industry and commerce. With this as the basis, we can guarantee the building of a socialist society in our country after fulfilling another two five-year plans.

The tasks of the trade unions of China are to unite and help all the workers, technical personnel and staff to fulfil the First Five-Year Plan ahead of schedule, to gradually improve the material and cultural life of the working class and all the labouring people and to struggle for the gradual realization of socialist industrialization of the country and transition to a socialist society.

The Chinese workers, in order to achieve a happier and better life as quickly as possible, are showing an unconquerable fighting spirit, tackling all difficulties and working heroically to build up their country. Many examples could be given of the great efforts they are making: In constructing the railway line to Urumchi in Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region, on the plains of Northwest China, the workers had to overcome great difficulties. They had to build bridges across the rushing waters of the Yellow River, cut long tunnels in the rarefied atmosphere of Wushiaoling Mountain, move roads and change rivers from their ancient courses. But they were inspired and encouraged by the call of Chairman Mao and by the warm support given them by the people of various nationalities in Northwest China. They also felt the necessity to exploit the resources of the frontiers of their motherland, to bring the rich products of the Northwest such as petroleum, non-ferrous metals and coal to other parts of the country, and to transport to Northwest China the large machines needed for industrial construction. The workers proudly said: "We trample all the difficulties under our feet and leave time behind us in making new records. Bridges

will appear on the rivers like the growing of bamboo shoots in spring and railways will stretch forward rapidly along the valley." The workers constructing the Sikang-Tibet Highway on the plateau of Southwest China had to climb the Chueherh Mountain which is 5,300 metres above sea level, enduring extreme cold reaching 30 degrees below zero. They struggled against mountain floods and frozen rivers. They conquered rocks and shifting sand, overcoming the problems of building in an earthquake region, and countless other obstacles. They finally reached Lhasa, and completed the construction of this highway which created conditions favourable to the political, economic and cultural development of our brother nationalities on the Sikang and Tibet plateau.

The workers constructing the Han River Bridge never stopped their work even during fierce storms. The divers worked in a torrent running at a rate of more than one metre per second, assemblers and crane operators worked on the pillars at a height of 30 to 40 metres above the ground. The construction work of this modern steel bridge was completed in January 1955, having taken a little over a year.

The Chinese workers have already brought about a high tide of socialist construction. In the factories and mines all over the country, socialist emulation drives have been initiated by the workers under the leadership of the trade unions. In formulating the production plan the experience and enthusiasm of all the workers is drawn upon. In the different enterprises the production targets are not something which has been arbitrarily set by the management, but deci-

sions have been reached after full discussions by the management, workers and all those concerned. These discussions, which involve all the workers in the enterprise and are initiated by the trade union committee, decide the amount of production that can be achieved. In this way every worker regards the fulfilment of the state production plan as his own affair, and is particularly concerned that his workmates and himself do their part well. Men and women workers constantly put forward rationalization proposals, popularize advanced experiences, improve their skill, and study and master new Soviet technique, with a view to complete the First Five-Year Plan ahead of time.

Wang Chung-lun, a planer in the tool workshop at the Anshan General Machine-Building Plant, made a new "universal fixture" which enabled him to complete the work of four years and forty-seven days in 1953. The other workers in the workshop also completed the work of two years and seventeen days in that year.

Although in 1954 the task assigned to Wang Chung-lun was much heavier than in the previous year, at the end of the year he overfulfilled his quota by 90 per cent. The other workers in the workshop, on their part, also finished their assignments one month ahead of schedule. Wang Chung-lun explains: "We are exerting all our efforts to fulfil the tasks assigned to us by the Government, so that we may quickly turn our country into a happy, prosperous and powerful socialist state." Many other examples from every branch of industry in every part of the country could

be cited to show how the Chinese workers are overcoming difficulties to build a better life.

While the workers of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company were discussing their production plan for 1956, the steel makers of No. 8 open-hearth furnace worked carefully over the time needed for a heat of steel and found that they could shorten it by 30 minutes. By further cutting down the time for overhauling the furnace and the time for loading the furnace bottom, they were able to produce 16,700 tons more steel for the state. Workers of other furnaces, following the lead, set new targets for overfulfilling their production plan. It is estimated that the whole plant will be able to complete its five-year plan in four years and produce much more steel for the country.

In the Dairen Industrial Vehicle Plant, members of the Sun Yung-tsai Team of the forging shop have already started their 1958 plan in early February 1956. By putting into practice 37 major rationalization proposals in three years, they have increased productivity one and a half times. Chuang Ming-keng, a turner of the Chishuyen Railway Repair Works, has completed his five-year quota in two years and eight months. Recently, he pledged himself to finish seven years' quotas in four years. Motor-car driver Ho Chang-hsien of the Hupeh Provincial Transport Bureau has embarked on his September 1957 plan in January 1956. He said to his fellow-workers with full confidence that after three more months he would be able to start his second five-year plan. Young lathe-turner Wang Hsin-nien of the state-owned

Shihchiachuang Freight Car Repair Works completed his production quota of the First Five-Year Plan on December 16, 1955, which meant two years and fifteen days ahead of schedule. Thus he had machined 20,032 extra steel wheels enough to equip 2,500 freight cars for the state with standard quality and no rejects.

Tsao Yung-kang, a planer in the machine shop of the Shanghai No. 2 Textile Machinery Works, started his production quota of August 1958 on November 15, 1955. In less than three years starting from 1953, he has already done the work equivalent to six years eight months and fifteen days without making any waste or hitches in production. The outstanding young fitter, Sun Chuan-fu, of the rotating electric machine shop of the state-owned Shanghai Electric Machinery Works has completed the work of fifty-six months and three days in thirty-four and one-half months. By November 18, 1955, he started to do the work planned for September 1957. In less than three years, from January 1953 to November 1955, he produced over 40,000 spare parts which met all the requirements; since liberation, he has improved both his tools and method of operation twenty times. Now he has pledged himself to fulfil his first five-year plan in three years and two months without any rejects.

Sheng Li, a well-known lathe-turner and model worker of Shanghai, completed his five-year quota in the Shanghai Machine Tool Works in three years' time. He is now proceeding with his second five-year plan. In the past two years, he improved thirty-nine kinds of tools as well as methods of work, thus raising his labour productivity by one to five times. Chang

Ah-hsi, a young foundry worker of the Shanghai Hsin-chung Generators Plant (a joint state-private enterprise), completed his five-year plan in two years and ten months, and has pledged himself to finish eight years' work during the First Five-Year Plan period.

These advanced workers have, with their heroic labour, set excellent examples for the workers of the whole country to follow. To learn from the advanced ones has now become an urgent and common wish among the broad sections of workers and employees. The socialist emulation campaign is spreading far and wide throughout the country as never before. All the evidence shows that we have full confidence in fulfilling our First Five-Year Plan ahead of schedule.

In 1950 there were 683,000 workers in China taking part in socialist emulation drives, in 1951 the number went up to 2,380,000, and now socialist emulation is developing in every enterprise.

From 1950 to 1953 the workers put forward 1,643,708 rationalization proposals, of which 781,956 have been put into practice. In 1954, 848,000 were made, of which 463,000 were put into practice.

The Constitution of the People's Republic of China provides: "Work is a matter of honour for every citizen of the People's Republic of China who is able to work. The state encourages citizens to take an active and creative part in their work." Over the past few years, the socialist emulation drives launched in all industrial departments have brought a great number of advanced workers to the fore. Large numbers of ordinary men and women workers, because of their

remarkable contributions in the development of our industry, have been elected model workers and are highly respected by all the working people.

In August 1954, the Central People's Government promulgated a provisional regulation regarding rewards for inventions, innovations and rationalization proposals on production. This regulation has greatly encouraged the creative enthusiasm of the broad mass of workers and employees, helping them to use fully their working experiences and knowledge for making inventions, innovations and rationalization proposals. During that year 135,600 workers were rewarded for their proposals. This measure has been of great help in overcoming the difficulties in the socialist industrialization of the country, in successfully fulfilling the national plans and in speeding up the development of the national economy.

In 1954, there were 153,900 workers in the whole country who were elected model workers, and 220,400 who were elected advanced workers.

We are building a socialist economy in our country because, in the last analysis, we want to secure the maximum satisfaction of the constantly rising material and cultural requirements of the whole society. To achieve that end, it is necessary to develop constantly the social productive forces, raise labour productivity and secure the continuous expansion and perfection of socialist production on the basis of higher techniques. In order to expand our socialist construction on a large scale, quickly, effectively and economically, it is essential that we rely on the close

co-operation between manual and mental workers, on the fraternal alliance of workers, peasants and intellectuals.

Since liberation, the social and political status of intellectuals has undergone a fundamental change, and the Communist Party of China and the Chinese Government have shown great respect for them. Large numbers of new-type intellectuals who are akin to the workers have grown up. Old technicians have made progress and are gradually developing a new outlook. Many old engineers have become intimate friends and helpful teachers of the workers. Working closely together with workers, many technicians have put forth hundreds of thousands of valuable proposals.

Experts, professors, engineers and many other scientific and technical personnel throughout the country regularly give workers systematic lectures on basic scientific and technical knowledge, such as lectures on physics, chemistry, machine-building and electrical engineering.

Professor Chao Hsueh-tien has worked out the "quick method of blueprint reading for mechanics." Trained with this method, a skilled worker of a lower grade, after attending ten hours' lectures and going through ten hours' practice, will be able to read ordinary blueprints of parts of a machinery, to read simple blueprints for assembling and to put together blueprints of a work object and work accordingly. Many workers have recently requested Professor Chao to prepare another book on "Quick Method of Engineering Drawing." In response to this, Professor Chao has made a plan to complete this new book by June

1956. His new book will help workers to learn engineering drawing quickly and to enable them to manifest in concrete forms their enthusiasm in creation and inventions and in making rationalization proposals.

In the last six years, scientists and technicians carried out tremendous work and achieved successes in the fields of geological survey and prospecting, designing and engineering of capital construction and trial manufacture of new products.

As a result of learning industriously from Soviet experience, Chinese engineers and technicians are now able to design and construct many kinds of modern factories, mine pits, bridges, water conservancy projects; and their ability to design big machines, locomotives and ships has also greatly improved. From 1952 to 1955, about 3,500 new products were manufactured, some of them are as good as those made in the most industrialized countries of the world.

China is a people's democratic state led by the working class and based on the worker-peasant alliance which is the basic force of building socialism. The rapid development of industrial construction has hastened the upsurge of the socialist transformation of agriculture; and the emergence of the high tide of agricultural co-operation in return created conditions for industrial expansion, thus speeding up the tempo of socialist industrial construction.

To support the movement for agricultural co-operation, workers and staff members of farm implement factories throughout the country have launched an inter-factory emulation. Through this emulation

to help increase agricultural production, they are striving to improve the quality of products, to reduce production costs, to increase the types of new products and to turn out, in good time and in greater numbers, cheaper and better new farm implements. Workers and staff members of all enterprises engaged in producing or supplying means of production and consumer goods are making great efforts to bring the potentialities of their enterprises into full play, so as to satisfy the constantly rising material and cultural needs of the peasants.

The trade unions of China consistently educate the workers and staff with the importance of worker-peasant alliance. The broad mass of workers and staff have strengthened their ties with the peasants through various means and ways. These include joint friendly gatherings, exchange of visits, presentation of books and pictorials to peasants, help rendered to set up libraries and clubs, teaching peasants to use and repair new farm implements, teaching members of agricultural producers' co-operatives to keep accounts, sending film projection teams and amateur artiste groups to help peasants develop their cultural and recreational activities, encouraging relatives and friends in the villages to take the lead in joining agricultural producers' co-operatives, to offer quality seeds to the co-operatives and to invest their savings in the co-operatives as production funds. All these activities have not only promoted mutual understanding between workers and peasants, but, of more importance, have enabled the workers to render assistance to peasants in technical and cultural matters. It is

through these activities that the workers educate the peasants in communism. The broad mass of workers and staff are setting an example for the peasants, inspiring them to raise their labour enthusiasm and rallying them to work together in building socialism in our country.

At the beginning of 1954, trade union organizations at provincial and municipal levels organized workers' delegations from mines and big factories to visit the peasants, invited the peasants to visit the factories and hold worker-peasant social gatherings and discussions. According to statistics made in 3 municipalities directly under the central authority, 10 municipalities under the provincial authority, 4 provinces and the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region, 436 workers' delegations with 38,549 delegates have been organized; and there have been about 1,440,000 occasions on which groups of workers and peasants visited one another and held parties and discussions. Through this, the unity between the working class and the peasantry is further strengthened.

The rapid development of China's peaceful construction is inseparable from the disinterested assistance of the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies, which have not only sent us the best technical equipment and many experts to offer us practical help, but have also trained a considerable number of Chinese engineering technicians, workers and cadres in the process of construction. This kind of economic and technical assistance, which is comprehensive, disin-

terested and systematic, has no comparison in the history of mankind. Chou Chuan-tien, deputy-director of the iron works of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company, puts it this way: "The experience of the Soviet Union in the building of socialism has enriched our knowledge and improved our ability in iron-smelting, something which those engaged in this field in old China could not possess even in a matter of several decades." The three major projects of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company, the new-type heavy rolling mill, seamless tubing mill and No. 7 blast furnace which were launched in 1953, were built with Soviet help; from designing, building, and installing the machinery to the trial runs and then finally production, everything was done with their assistance. With the completion of these projects, the Anshan Iron and Steel Company will gradually develop and expand; heavy structural steel, heavy rails and seamless tubing which we could not produce before can now be produced in great quantities to supply the country's need. From now on, we will have steel rails for our railways, seamless tubing for geological drillings, steam pipes for power plants and structural steel for huge factory buildings. The disinterested assistance of the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies has made this possible by adding new strength to our industry, giving impetus to the development of our national economy and bringing immeasurable benefits to the people.

In the field of the iron and steel industry, steel workers, having learned the advanced experience of the Soviet Union in the control of material, in regular

change of charging frequency, in steam blowing and high temperature air blasting, have increased the rate of utility of the blast furnace. For the first eight months of 1955, the average rate of space required in blast furnaces throughout the country for each ton of iron smelted was reduced by 4.7 per cent in comparison with 1954. In 1955, steel makers popularized extensively such advanced experience of the Soviet Union as loading the furnace bottom with thick layers of agglomerate, quick repairing of cold furnaces and high-speed smelting. After having applied the Soviet experience of loading the furnace bottom with thick agglomerate, all the open-hearth furnaces under the administration of the Iron and Steel Industrial Bureau have increased output and shortened the time for repairing hot furnaces; in the first five months of 1955 alone, more than 4,900 extra tons of steel were made in these furnaces.

During October 1955, steel workers of Anshan, Chungking, Shanghai, Taiyuan and other cities embarked on an enthusiastic drive of learning the advanced method of steel making of the outstanding Soviet steel worker G. V. Kolesnikov. The steel makers of the open-hearth furnaces of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company were especially keen in this campaign. The steel workers of No. 1 open-hearth furnace tried out the new method right after the day of Kolesnikov's demonstration. The result was two hours and ten minutes less than the standard time required for the ordinary quick method of steel making.

In iron-ore mining, the workers have also learned the new Soviet method of drilling with hard alloy tubes, the wet drilling method and the straight-line explosion method which have resulted in higher excavation rates.

The engineering workers, in 1955, continued to apply the high-speed cutting method of the Soviet Union, the Vasili-Kolesov and Ulanov lathe-operating methods, the multi-cutter and multi-edge cutting method, the Shirov high-speed boring method, the omni-planing method, as well as cutting with processed electric spark, etc. Workers of the Shanghai Machine Tool Works, having mastered the high-speed cutting method, have increased their work efficiency by 100 per cent.

In 1955, over 90 per cent of the state-owned collieries adopted the advanced Soviet method of excavation. By using such method of cutting coal, the rate of yielding in the state collieries reached above 80 per cent while the old method used to yield only 30-40 per cent of coal.

The electrical workers, learning from the Soviet method of using inferior quality coal and adjusting the load of generators, saved a considerable amount of electricity. In 1955, as a result of load adjustments, about 300 million kilowatt-hours were saved for the state which were enough to supply an industrial city with two million population.

In carrying out the great task of building socialism, the Chinese people have received the magnanimous and disinterested help of the Soviet Union. The Chinese people fully realize that assistance from the

Soviet Union is an important factor in developing their national economy and in turning China from a backward agricultural country into an advanced industrial one. The all-round and large-scale assistance rendered by the Soviet Union has enabled us, within a few years after liberation, to rapidly rehabilitate our economy and, on this basis, to launch the construction of our national economy in a planned way. The 156 major projects which the Soviet Union is helping us to construct form the important groundwork for realizing our First Five-Year Plan in building socialism. By the end of 1955, twenty-nine of these projects were completed and started operation. They are now working day and night for the socialist construction of our country and accumulating wealth for the Chinese people.

Over the last few years, the Soviet Union has sent a large number of outstanding experts to China to help us solve various technical problems in the socialist construction. They have been working arduously, setting an example to their Chinese work-mates and have helped train large groups of cadres for China. The Chinese people fully realize that the rapid development of their national economy and the gigantic achievements of their socialist construction are inseparable from the assistance of the Soviet Union. The Chinese people will never forget the great, selfless and fraternal friendship of the Soviet Union which is based on the spirit of internationalism. The Chinese people, in building socialism, have to learn more industriously from the Soviet Union, to integrate the advanced Soviet experience with the practice of

China's socialist construction, thus to further the cause of socialism in China.

Special mention should be made here of the sincere and disinterested assistance given to China by the Soviet Union in the field of utilizing atomic energy for peaceful purposes. The Soviet Union has made a plan to build for China an experimental atomic pile with a capacity of 6,500 kilowatts and to help in the training of scientists and technical staff on the peaceful utilization of atomic energy.

At the end of 1955, the Soviet Union specially sent a delegation of prominent scientists to China to give further help in the development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. While here, the delegation made a report on the Geneva Conference for the peaceful development of atomic energy to Chinese scientists. With the help of the Soviet Union, China will soon be able to master the most advanced technique of exploiting atomic energy. Undoubtedly, this is extremely important to the cause of socialist construction in China.

While marching towards socialism, the Chinese trade unions are confidently leading the working class to build a happy life for themselves. The trade unions rally millions of men and women workers in their ranks, and mobilize the great strength of the working class to realize the national construction plans. Our efforts are fully manifested in the magnificent achievements obtained in the development of our national economy.

The scale of our socialist industrialization can be seen from the increase in the investments on

capital construction. In 1953 total investments on capital construction exceeded those in 1952 by 96 per cent, while in 1954 budgetary investments for this purpose again exceeded those in 1953 by 28 per cent. Up to 1955, 271 above-norm industrial construction projects had been put into operation. The total value of modern industrial production in 1954 was 4.2 times that of 1949. The following important industrial products can be taken as an example: Taking the output in 1949 as 100, 1954 output of electricity was 250, coal 260, pig iron 1,240, steel 1,370, metal-cutting lathes 850, cement 720, cotton yarn 260, and machine-manufactured paper 450.

The percentage of production by modern industry in the combined total value of commodities increased from 17 per cent in 1949 to 33.7 per cent in 1955. The proportion of capital production in the total value of industrial production rose from 28.8 per cent in 1949 to 45 per cent in 1955. There was also an increase in the proportion of industrial output by state-owned, cooperative and joint state-private enterprises in the total value of industrial production, from 37 per cent in 1949 to about 81 per cent in 1955. These figures indicate the rate at which China is advancing towards industrialization and socialism.

Provisions in the Constitution of the People's Republic of China concerning the gradual realization of socialist industrialization are not just empty talk, but living facts which we are bringing about by our activities. Under the leadership of the Chinese Com-

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munist Party and the People's Government, the working people of the whole country are striving heroically to change the face of our country. After the completion of several five-year plans, China will become a powerful, socialist and industrially advanced country.

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HIGHER WAGES AND BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS

In our country where the working class holds the state power, the fundamental aim of developing the national economy and expanding socialist production is to gradually improve the material and cultural life of the people. Over the past six years, along with the development of the national economy, a series of measures have been adopted for improving the living conditions and welfare of the workers and staff. The material and cultural life of the Chinese working class has been greatly improved.

In the spring of 1950, the People's Government balanced the financial budget and stabilized the prices of commodities, so ending the inflation which had existed for more than ten years under the reactionary rule of the Kuomintang, and guaranteeing real earnings. On March 1, 1955 on the basis of balanced budget and the stabilization of finance and commodity prices, the Government issued a new currency which has further strengthened the currency system. It is also a very important measure in helping forward the socialist construction of our country and the gradual raising of the living standards of our people.

As the economic conditions of the country improved so the wage system was gradually reformed

in a planned and systematic way, thereby raising the level of real wages. The trade unions take part in all decisions on wages. Representatives of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions take part in discussions with Government representatives in the formulation of the national wage plan, and the Government always consult with the trade unions in the promulgation of wage decrees. It is the duty of the trade unions to see that all these decrees are carried out in the different enterprises, and also to obtain the opinions of the workers for improving the wage system. The actual wages to be received by the individual workers, within the framework of the national wages policy, and the wages plan for the industry, are only fixed after full discussions between the trade unions and the management of the enterprises. In very many cases wages are paid on a graded system, with up to eight grades, each with different levels of wages, according to the skill or value of work performed. In these cases the trade union representatives not only take part in the discussions to decide the amount of wages to be paid to each grade, and the differentials between them, but also the various categories of workers who will occupy the different grades. They also make recommendations and take part in discussions for promoting workers to a higher grade. In the case of jobs which are paid under the piece-work system, the wages to be paid are also decided through discussions between the trade unions and management.

The payment of wages in the state-owned enterprises is in accordance with the socialist principle "to each according to his work." Workers doing the same

work receive the same pay, irrespective of nationality, sex or age, thus the principle of equal pay for equal work has been fulfilled. It is this principle of payment according to work which links the interests of the individual worker with the interests of the country. The enthusiasm and creative ability of the workers and staff have thus helped to further develop production and raise the living standard of the people.

In the past six years, due to the continual rise of wages, the broad mass of workers have done away with poverty and misery from which they suffered before liberation, and are now living a happy life. Let us take the case of twelve families whose men members have worked in the iron-smelting section of the Shihchingshan Iron and Steel Factory for many years. After liberation, from 1952 to 1954, they bought 12 bicycles, 12 wrist-watches, 5 radios, 1 sewing-machine, 58 cotton quilts and mattresses, 3 blankets, 44 leather, fur or woollen suits, 395 articles of cotton clothing, 159 articles of padded clothing, 24 pairs of leather shoes, and they have deposited 1,022 yuan in the bank. Before liberation only one family had an old bicycle which was used by three brothers, and none of them had ever had a wrist-watch or radio.

In 1952, the average wage of the workers and staff in the state-owned enterprises increased by 60 per cent to 120 per cent as compared with 1949, and general wages had reached or surpassed the level existing before the anti-Japanese war period. In 1955, the annual average real wage of the workers and staff of the state-owned enter-

prises increased by 20.5 per cent as compared with that of 1952.

In our country, the real earnings of the workers and staff not only take the form of money wages, but also include various kinds of welfare benefits which are provided for by the state for the promotion of the material and cultural life of the working people, such as labour insurance, the building of houses with low rents for workers and staff, the provision of cultural and educational facilities. Appropriations by the state for this purpose are also increasing every year. It is a main factor in the improvement of the material and cultural conditions of the working people.

The continual increase in the incomes of the broad mass of the workers and staff is directly reflected by the continual increase in their purchasing power.

The social purchasing power in 1951 increased by 22 per cent as compared with 1950; in 1952, it increased about another 25 per cent and in 1953 by a further 20 per cent. In 1954, it showed an increase of 13.8 per cent over 1953.

Many workers deposit money every month in the bank. This was something unheard of in the old China, and is a concrete proof of the improvement in the lives of the Chinese workers.

In the following five factories: the Wuhan State No. 1 Textile Factory, Hankow No. 1 Textile Company, Yu Hua Textile Company, Chen Huan Textile Company and Shen Hsin Textile Factory, one out of every three workers on an average has money deposited in the bank. At the

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end of 1953, in the Wuhan branch bank of the People's Bank of China there was an increase of 70,000 current and deposit accounts over the first quarter of 1953, and of these 50,000 were from the working people.

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DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNAL LABOUR INSURANCE ESTABLISHMENTS

Article 93 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China provides: "Working people in the People's Republic of China have the right to material assistance in old age, and in case of illness or disability." The rapid development of labour insurance is an important measure taken by the state to ensure the enjoyment of this right by the workers.

Northeast China was the first to be liberated. There the wartime provisional labour insurance regulations in the state-owned enterprises were promulgated in December 1948. After the liberation of the whole country, the Labour Insurance Regulations of the People's Republic of China were promulgated in February 1951. The labour insurance benefits were applied according to the Regulations to the railways, water transport, posts and telecommunications and factories and mines employing more than 100 workers and staff members. While in the enterprises employing less than 100, collective contracts were made to solve problems connected with labour insurance. In January 1953, the Government Administration Council adopted Amendments to the Labour Insurance

Regulations which extended the scope of application and increased the benefits in some provisions.

The salient feature of China's labour insurance is that the managements or owners of enterprises pay to the labour insurance fund a sum equal to 3 per cent of the total pay-roll of all workers and staff members in the enterprises concerned, but the workers do not pay anything to this fund. The fund is managed by the trade union.

The number of persons covered by labour insurance in 1949 was 600,000; in 1950, 1,400,000; in 1951, 2,600,000; in 1952, 3,300,000; in 1953, 4,830,000; in 1954, 5,380,000; and by the end of June 1955, 5,500,000; these figures do not include those who were covered by the labour insurance collective contracts in the small and medium-size enterprises.

The labour insurance fund, which is 3 per cent of the total pay-roll, and the cost of medical treatment and other expenses directly paid by the enterprises, are altogether equal to more than 10 per cent of the total pay-roll of the enterprises concerned.

Before liberation, the workers led a miserable life, hardly able to afford any medical treatment in time of need. Now the trade unions work through the labour insurance organizations for prevention of sickness and injury, and provide treatment to help the sick workers recover their health. Sanatoria and rest homes established in many parts of the country accommodated more than 1,130,000 workers between 1951 and 1954.

These sanatoria situate in some of China's most famous beauty spots, such as the West Lake, Taihu Lake, the Summer Palace in Peking, Lushan, Peitaiho, Chinwangtao and Tsingtao. Workers enjoy a happy time during treatment. For example, on the western outskirts of Peking, there is a sanatorium belonging to the Posts and Telecommunications Trade Union. There are usually 70 to 80 postal workers there, coming from various places in North China for treatment. The patients themselves form a "Patients' Committee." In the morning, some of them play games, some take a walk along the stream or in the woods, and others just rest in cane-chairs in the garden. A time for study is arranged in the morning. There is a library with pictorials, novels, journals and newspapers. A pair of earphones is placed beside each bed so that the patients can listen to music, operas and songs on the radio. Afternoon is the time for treatment. The most happy time is in the evening when there are often film shows or other recreational activities.

The workers' branch of the Tangkangtse Sanatorium in Northeast China has workers and staff members coming from Shenyang, Anshan, Dairen and other places. Among them was a worker from the sericulture factory in Haicheng who wrote his impressions: "When I was thirteen, I began to work in a privately-owned factory. Once I was sick and the employer told me, 'This is neither a hotel nor a hospital, if you cannot work, you can go.' I was then dismissed. Now under the leadership of the Communist Party, we have become the masters of the country,

not only is there no unemployment, but when we are sick, the Government sends us to a sanatorium. Staying in this magnificent establishment, and comparing it with my previous experience, I really feel that I am in heaven."

There were only 4 workers' sanatoria (including hydropathic sanatoria, tuberculosis sanatoria and rest homes) in 1949 with 655 beds; in 1950, this had gone up to 11 with 2,036 beds; in 1951, 27 with 3,649 beds; in 1952, 67 with 7,899 beds; in 1953, 108 with 11,707 beds; in 1954, 126 with more than 13,490 beds, and in the first half of 1955, there were 129 with more than 15,930 beds. In 1954 there were more than 70 overnight sanatoria with more than 5,000 beds.

There was only one overnight sanatorium attached to factories and mines in 1949; the number rose to 17 in 1950, and to 136 in 1951, 383 in 1952, 1,267 in 1953 and 1,488 in 1954; and at the end of September of 1955, there were 1,562 with 38,998 beds.

The workers are no longer afraid of being without any subsistence in their old age. The retired workers, if they have their own homes, can of course live with their families; if they have no homes, they may go to a home for old people. For example, in Fushun Mining Administration, from July to October 1954, there were 140 old workers who went to these homes. On the day they retired, the various units in the Administration held farewell meetings for them and congratulated them, and wished them happiness in their old age. These retired workers get insurance

benefits equal to 50 to 70 per cent of their original wages. Those who go to the old people's homes can enjoy a tranquil and comfortable life in the company of other old people. They spend their time in taking walks, fishing, strolling in the garden, playing chess, or in other amusements just as they please. There are people to attend to their food, clothes and rooms. Hsia Mao-lin, an old transport worker, said: "I have never dreamt of being so happy in my old age, living in such a lovely home!" Some of the old workers want to pass the rest of their lives in their native place, such as Li Tang of the Victory Mine who had worked in the mine for 39 years, and suffered very much in the old society. After liberation, he worked with great enthusiasm and was given the honourable title of model worker. After he retired, he went back to Haokechuang Village, Laiyang County, Shantung Province to spend his old age. He said with happiness: "Now I am going back to live happily with my whole family."

If those who are qualified to retire want to continue working in the factory or mine, they receive, in addition to their normal wages, a portion of their old-age pensions every month from the labour insurance fund.

Many old workers, enjoying the happiness the new society brings to them, have raised their class consciousness and have shown their initiative in production. Chang Chia-fa, an old worker in the locomotive section of Chungking No. 101 Iron and Steel Works, recalled his miserable life in the old days with emotion: "In the past, it was unemployment and

hunger that I most worried about. But now, the Communist Party and Government look after us with such care, carry out the labour insurance and give me old-age pension whilst staying on work. I must repay the concern bestowed on me by action." He has succeeded, within the short period of over two months' strenuous tutorship, in teaching Li En-kuei and six other apprentices to drive locomotives by themselves. During the Campaign of Resistance to American Aggression and Aid to Korea, he responded to the call of the state to increase production and practise economy by organizing the workers to repair a locomotive with waste materials.

The number of homes for the old and the disabled and orphanages in 1950 was 7, with 615 beds; in 1951, 14, with 1,298 beds; in 1952, 18, with 1,673 beds; in 1953, 20, with 1,839 beds; and in 1954, 21, with 1,656 beds.

The number of workers who enjoyed retirement pensions was 69 in 1949; 156 in 1950; 6,300 in 1951; 12,049 in 1952; and 21,237 in 1953.

The number of workers who are qualified to retire but continue to work and receive old-age pensions was 762 in 1949; 1,715 in 1950; 4,603 in 1951; 6,503 in 1952 and 11,698 in 1953.

In 1954, the number of workers receiving retirement pensions and those who are qualified to retire but continue to work and receive old-age pensions totalled 34,900.

Various kinds of collective welfare are rapidly developing. In old China, workers were beset with difficult problems during periods of birth, old age, sick-

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ness, death, injuries, etc., but now many of these problems are solved for them. Those model workers who have made special contributions in their work can enjoy good benefits according to the labour insurance regulations. In carrying out work of labour insurance, attention is constantly being paid to the prevention of sickness and accidents, so that it plays a great role in improving the workers' health and living conditions.

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GRADUAL EMANCIPATION FROM HEAVY MANUAL LABOUR

Chairman Mao has constantly taught us that while we should increase our labour productivity, we should also improve the working conditions and the material and cultural standards of the workers and staff members. The protection of the health and safety of the working people is one of the overriding principles in conducting our socialist enterprises.

General inspections of factory hygiene and safety measures have been carried out throughout the country on several occasions since liberation. The trade union organizations have encouraged the workers to put forward suggestions on what improvements should be made and how to bring about such improvements. Such mass campaigns have played an important role. The workers have increased their understanding and knowledge of safety and hygiene through these campaigns and laid down various rules.

Over the past few years, efforts have not only been made to raise productivity, but also to lighten the labour intensity of workers as well as to improve working conditions and to wipe out sickness and injuries sustained at work.

The trade union organizations are responsible for supervising the way in which the administration of

state-owned enterprises and joint state-private enterprises has carried out the existing labour regulations. As far as working hours are concerned, the state-owned enterprises and joint state-private enterprises put into practice the eight-hour day. In those departments of the chemical industry in which the work is detrimental to health, the workers only work six hours a day. Workers who are engaged in work detrimental to health are paid an extra allowance and supplied with nutritious food. The administration of factories and mines should see to it that dietetic canteens and clinics are set up, and that the workers are regularly supplied with fresh nutritious food to preserve their health or combat poisons. It is stipulated by law that women and juvenile workers should be given special treatment and that they should receive equal pay for equal work. Women workers have special treatment and benefits before and after confinement and during the period of nursing. The state-owned factories and mines no longer employ child labour and they have adopted special measures for the benefit of the young workers previously employed, such as lightening their work or reducing their working day in order to enable them to have enough time to study and to take part in various cultural activities. Some of them now have been sent to schools to study.

In 1954, the Ministry of Labour issued a regulation stipulating that all industrial enterprises of the country must work out a plan for labour protection and the provision of safety devices, when they decide on their financial plan for the year. The trade union or-

ganization in the enterprise will supervise and ensure the carrying out of decisions of the plan and the labour protection agreement which it has concluded with the management of the enterprise, so improving the working conditions.

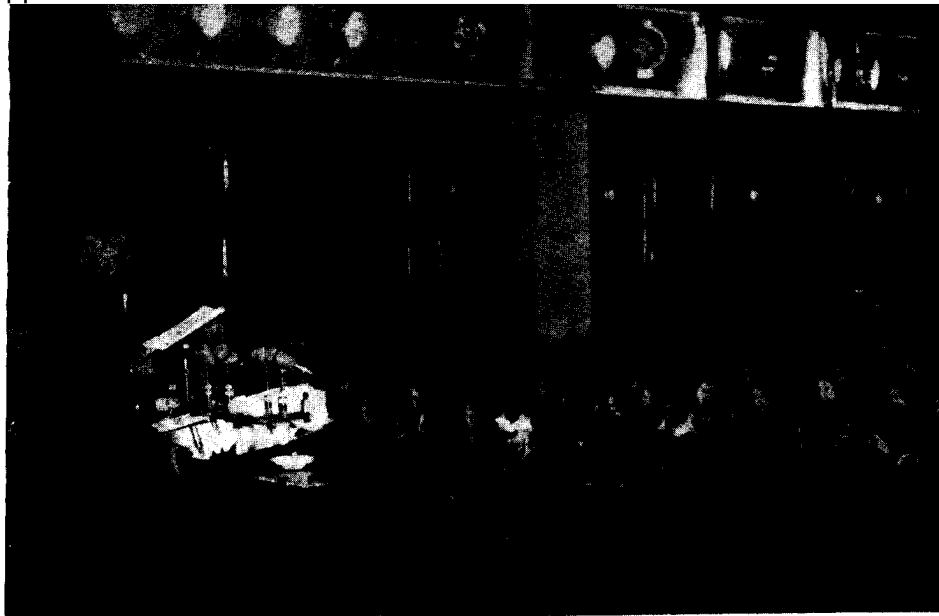
For the purpose of improving working conditions, the state has paid out large sums for labour protection. If we take the expenditure on labour protection by the Ministry of Railways as 100 in 1950, then it was 409.2 in 1951, 628 in 1952, 1,291.1 in 1953 and 1,211.3 in 1954.

In the coal-mining industry, the national investment on health equipment in 1954 was 48.3 per cent greater than in 1953.

In water conservancy departments, if we take the expenditure on labour protection in 1953 as 100, then it was 267 in 1954 and 3,988 in 1955.

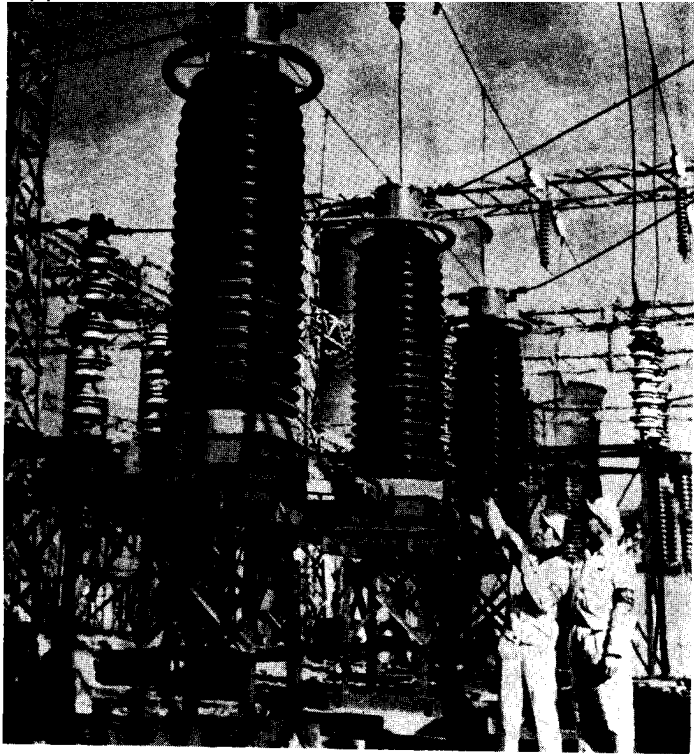
It was impossible to do this during the time of the Kuomintang reactionary rule, since the employers were concerned not about a better life for the people, but about how to squeeze more profits out of them. The workers had to work 10 hours or even 14 to 15 hours a day, all the year round without any holidays, under appalling conditions. The lot of the women and juvenile workers was still more miserable, and the rate of injuries, deaths, disability and occupational diseases was appallingly high. For instance, there was a common saying among the coal-miners in the past that "every third stone is covered with blood," as no attempts were made to provide for their safety at all. Many accidents occurred, such as the explo-

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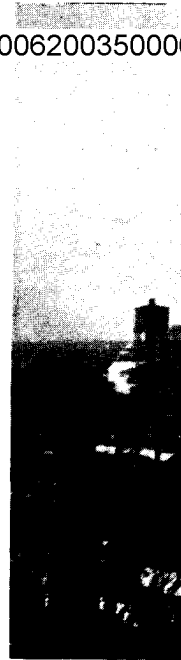


**Comrade Lai Jo-yu presenting the Work Report at the 7th All-China
Congress of Trade Unions held in 1953**

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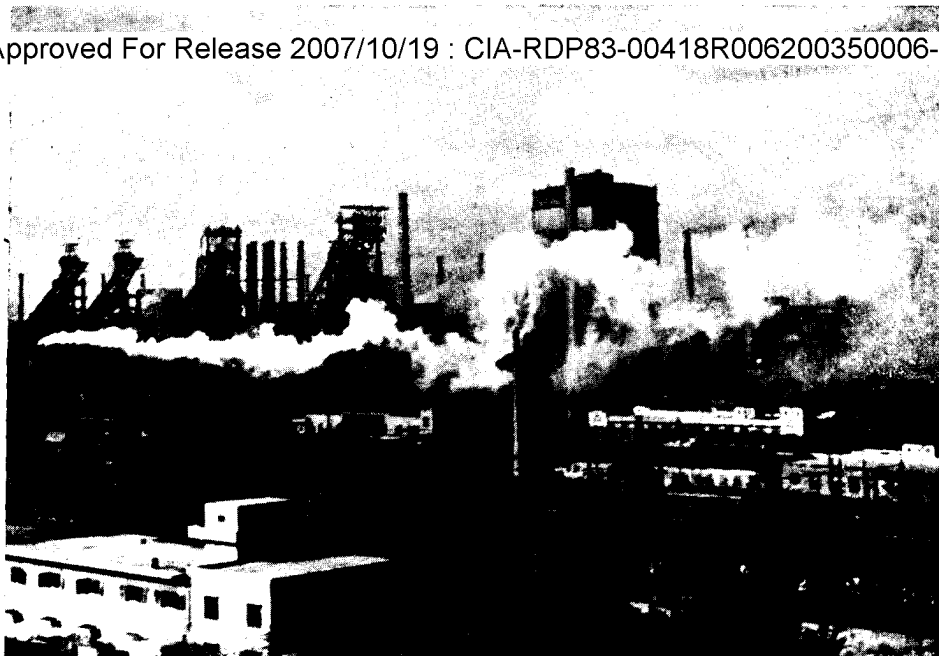
The newly expanded sub-station
of the Fushin Power Plant



The Dairen Shipbuilding Company, which was founded jointly by China and the Soviet Union in January 1952, was transferred to sole Chinese ownership on January 1, 1955. In these last few years it has laid a firm foundation for the development of our shipbuilding industry. Picture shows a corner of the dockyard



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Anshan, the steel centre, is a base of China's socialist industrialization



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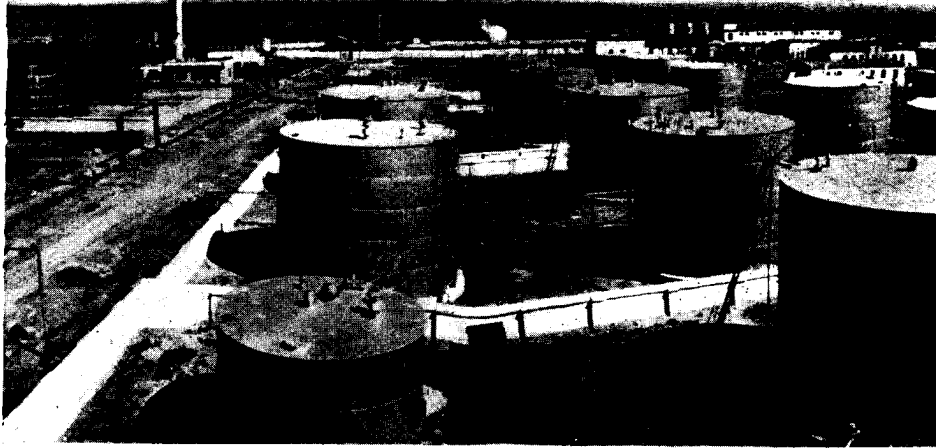
One of the main machine shops of China's No. 1 Motor Works in Changchun



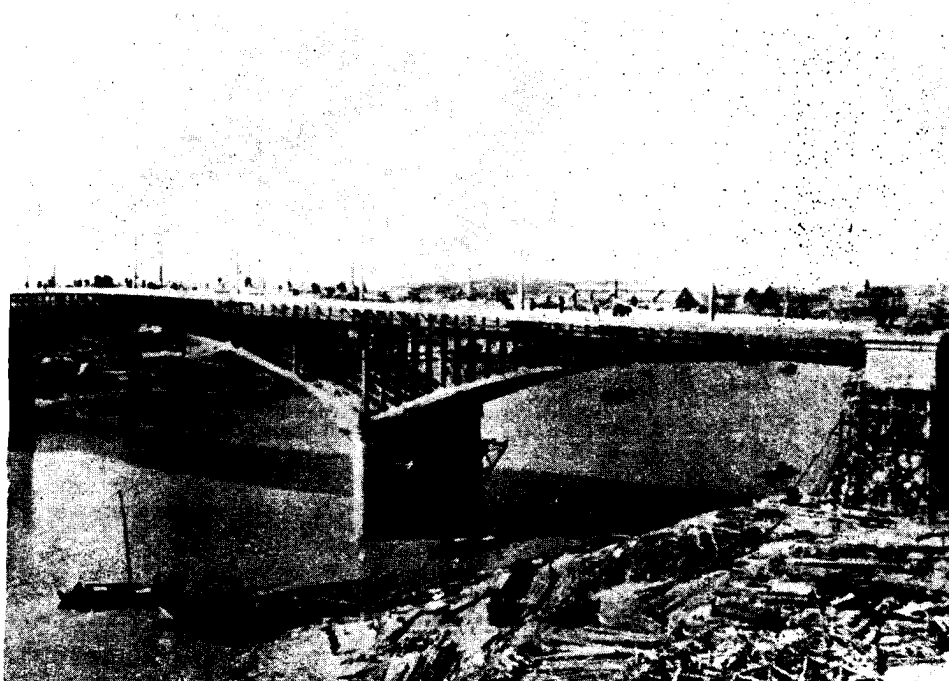
The highway bridge over the Han River has just been completed

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Oil tanks of the Sinkiang Oil Company. The oil industry is developing swiftly in China

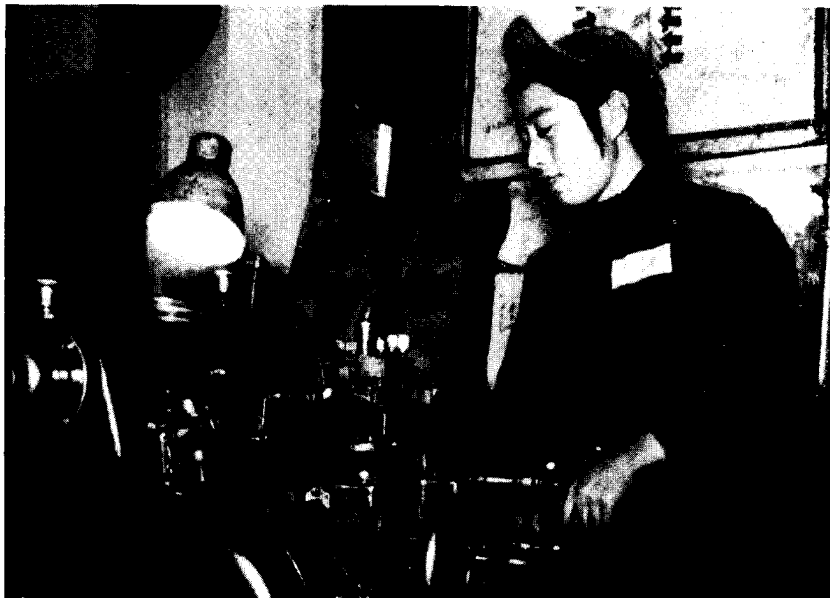


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Sheng Li, a model worker in Shanghai, who has completed his quota of work for the First Five-Year Plan, is working on 1958 tasks



Wang Shu-wen uses the Soviet universal cutting method; she fulfilled her 1955 plan 2 months 14 days ahead of schedule

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Lu Sheng-ho (right), a lathe turner of the Dairen Industrial and Mining Wagon Factory who accomplished his whole quota in the First Five-Year Plan on November 20, 1955, is helping another worker, Sung Lien-feng, improve the quality of her work

Ai Chao-chang discusses driving technique with other motor drivers during a break. Ai covered 100,000 kilometres of safe driving between January 1954 and October 1955 and has been elected a model worker





Youth Team No. 601 of the Laohutai pit in the Fushun Coal-mines. The team finished its task for the year at the end of October 1955. The leader of the team, Fu Lien-chi (centre), outlines the following day's task



A Soviet specialist is showing Chinese technicians how to operate the first generator at the Kuanting Hydroelectric Power Station

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**Workers in the Farming Implements Repair Shop
of Kiangsu Province repairing tractors for a
machine-tractor station**

**Ready for delivery to the countryside — double-share ploughs made
by the Peking Farming Implements Plant**



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A section of the housing estate for workers of the Peking State-owned Cotton Mill No. 2



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The home of a worker
employed at the Pe-
king State-owned Cot-
ton Mill No. 1



Chaoyang New Village,
one of the workers'
districts in Shanghai





Workers of the Peking Farming Implements Plant studying the principles of the internal combustion engine in the laboratory of the factory's spare-time school

Spare-time students doing their home work — they are workers of the Peking State-owned Cotton Mill No. 1





A women's choir at the Tientsin Workers' Amateur Artists Concert

A group of amateur artists of the Chungking Steel Plant in the room set aside for them as studio



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A basket-ball final: Electric Workers vs. Teachers

Lai Jo-yu, President of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, presenting the cup to the leader of the railway workers' team who have won the most points in the track and field events



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sion in the Penki Mine in 1945 which caused 1,100 deaths. No attention was ever paid to the health of the miners, there was not only no boiled water in the pit for them to drink, but also no clean water, and the workers had to drink dirty water, which caused many of the workers to suffer from diarrhoea. There was not only no one to take care of the sufferers, but the feudal gangsters would drive them with clubs to work in the mine, so long as they were able to breathe. Another example is provided by the light rolling mill of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company. Under the reactionary regime workers had to do heavy manual work in high temperature. After working for a year or two, a strong healthy worker would become very weak, so there was a common saying among the workers that "to work in the light rolling mill is to work in hell, where one has to stake his life for his bread."

Now the conditions are entirely different. Machines have taken the place of heavy physical labour in many industries. For instance, in the coal-mining industry throughout the country, more than 45 per cent of the coal mined are excavated with combines and pneumatic picks and more than 50 per cent using pneumatic or electric drills.

Outmoded instruments such as pick-axes have already been replaced. On the average, 80 per cent of traction on the underground working face and the haulage roadways are mechanized. With the rise of the extent of mechanization, the labour productivity of workers has increased markedly. In 1955, the labour productivity of coal-miners was more than two

times that of 1950. In 1954, state-owned coal-mines had generally installed modern ventilation devices, thus assuring more than 3 cubic metres' fresh air per minute to miners working underground.

Chang Ming-shan, a worker of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company, successfully developed, with the assistance of Soviet experts, the Reverse Repeater, which has greatly improved the working conditions of the workers, eliminated occupational diseases and scalding accidents and raised the efficiency of the rollers by 22.5 per cent. A worker named Lu Nai-tao co-operating with a technician called Wu Liang-ya, invented the Automatic Continuous Steel Conveyer attached to the furnace, which has not only raised the efficiency by 21 per cent, but has also freed the furnace workers from working in high temperature and reduced the possibility of injuries from scalding. The workers and staff members of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company enthusiastically put forward proposals for improving technique and for safety methods in production. Many of these proposals have been put into practice and the workers have been released from heavy manual labour and from working in high temperature. The workers of that Company have said, "In the past, we operated machines either knee-deep in water or in extreme heat, but at present we can sit beside the machine and watch it work." All advanced workers in the various factories and mines throughout the country are continually thinking of ways to further improve working conditions and measures for ensuring safety in the operational processes as well as seeking new methods to wipe out accidents.

In order to lower the temperature in the workshops in summer, the textile industry proceeded in the year 1953 to improve and install ventilation and air conditioning equipment on a large scale. Approximately 95 per cent of the spinning workshops in the state-owned mills all over the country have installed air-conditioning plants, so the temperature in the workshops is reduced, and the workers happily say, "While it is extremely hot outside in summer, the temperature in the workshops is as cool as in spring."

Work has been carried on over the last few years on the training of cadres specialized in labour protection. Since 1953, the All-China Federation of Trade Unions has invited experts from the Soviet Union to train cadres and teachers in this field. Teachers so trained have in turn helped the managements of enterprises to train other labour protection cadres. Industrial, provincial and municipal trade union organizations have also trained a number of such cadres. In 1955, according to the statistics of five trade union organizations including Railway Workers' Trade Union, Trade Union of Workers of the Second Machinery Industry, Electrical Workers' Trade Union and the Shanghai Trade Union Council, 18,147 cadres and activists have received preliminary training in labour protection, and more than 1,000 cadres have received systematic training on Soviet practices in labour protection.

During the period of our First Five-Year Plan, the Soviet Union is helping us to construct socialist enterprises which are highly mechanized and have

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up-to-date machines, such as the Harbin Flax Mill, the heavy rolling mill, seamless tubing mill and modern electric power station at Anshan. The establishment of these modern enterprises will further free the workers from heavy manual labour.

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IMPROVEMENTS IN HOUSING

The People's Government and the trade union organizations of China give a lot of attention to improving the housing conditions of the workers and staff members. Many workers' houses are being built in the industrial cities accommodating large numbers of workers. Between 1952 and 1954 forty workers' housing estates were built in twelve areas in Shanghai with accommodation for 160,000 persons. During the same period, more than ninety public buildings, including schools, creches, clinics, co-operatives, vegetable markets, parks and cinemas, have been built; and of these, five middle schools and twelve primary schools alone can accommodate more than 20,000 workers' children. Roads and bridges have been built and sewerage laid; in these areas there are also post offices and telephones. The Public Bus and Tram Company of Shanghai also opened new bus lines to make it easier for the workers to go to work and return home. In Shenyang houses with more than 509,000 square metres of floor space were built in 1954, and many of these housing estates have grown trees and flowers, with beautiful lawns. One of the regular jobs of the trade union organizations is to help the management of the enterprises to allocate new houses to the workers.

In addition to building new houses the state has taken measures to improve the sanitary conditions of working-class areas. For instance, there are about ten thousand people living in Yaoshui Lane in the Puto District of Shanghai. Before liberation, sanitary conditions were very bad, with rubbish all over the place. There was no sewerage, and epidemics were quite common, giving this lane a very high mortality rate. After liberation the sanitary conditions in the houses were improved. Sewerage was built, taps fixed, street-lamps installed, the worst parts of the road rebuilt and water-tanks and dust-bins were put on the streets.

On moving to the new houses with their families, many workers could not help recall the terrible housing conditions they had suffered before the liberation. At that time, most of them had no real houses and lived in reeking thatched sheds or even in leaky boats. In the dormitories of some factories dozens of workers crowded in one room, sometimes three shifts of workers sleeping in the same room by turn. Under these conditions, fresh air and sunlight were out of the question. Wei Tung-sheng, a stevedore of the Harbour Affairs Bureau of Shanghai who had lived in a thatched shed for more than ten years, said on moving into a new flat, "In the past, whenever it rained outside, it always drizzled inside my shed. I used to think I would live in that shed all my life. How could I dream of living in such a fine house!" Teng Sheng-lou, a mason, said on moving to the workers' flats which he helped to build: "How could a mason live in such a fine building if it had not been for the leader-

ship of Chairman Mao! We built many houses before liberation, but we could not even call a piece of brick or tile our own!"

Before liberation, house rents used to take up 30-50 per cent of a worker's wage; this naturally aggravated the problem of maintaining a living. Soon after liberation, the People's Government promulgated a decree to abolish ill practices in house renting and partially settled the housing problem of workers. New houses built for workers by the People's Government are rented at very low rates; those charged on family houses occupy only 5-8 per cent of the worker's wage, while houses for single persons are charged even less.

Today, together with the rapid development of the peaceful economic construction of our country, many new industrial cities have arisen. The ranks of the working class have been growing continually and the urban population has increased considerably. The state and the trade union organizations are making every effort to improve the workers' housing conditions with a view to meeting the growing needs of the broad mass of workers.

In 1952, the state built many flats capable of accommodating one million workers and staff members. In 1953, workers' flats with a floor space of 12 million square metres were built, and in 1954, 13 million square metres. In 1955, according to the state plan, workers' flats with a floor space of 11 million square metres were expected to be built. To take the various industries as examples. From 1949 to 1952, flats occupying a floor space of 2.5 million square metres were built

for the coal-mining industry—well above the total of miners' dwellings built before liberation. Another 666,208 square metres of floor space were allotted to the same industry in 1953, and a further 604,893 square metres of floor space added in 1954.

From liberation up to 1953, flats occupying 1,410,000 square metres of floor space were allotted to railwaymen's families, and hostels occupying another 250,000 square metres of floor space were built. In the post and telegraph section, flats occupying 3,780 square metres of floor space were built in 1950, 32,675 square metres in 1951, 83,914 square metres in 1952, 160,998 square metres in 1953, 52,533 square metres in 1954 and 53,256 square metres in 1955, making a total of 387,156 square metres for the past six years.

From the time of liberation up to 1953, the state-owned textile mills built flats with more than 800,000 square metres of floor space, in addition to the joint state-private textile mills which also built many new flats for their workers and employees.

In addition to the great number of houses built by the People's Government for the workers, more and more workers are building their own houses as a result of the constant increase in wages. In this respect, the workers have received assistance both from the Government and the administration of their enterprise. Land is provided by the Government or the administration concerned, while sewerage, street light, public toilet and other public facilities are installed

free of charge. In case of financial difficulty, workers can get loans from the administration to be reimbursed in installments. Workers may put forward their favourite designs and ask the administration to give help on it. They can also get help on the supply and transporting of building material, as well as on construction matters. Houses so built are owned by the workers for their free disposal without having to pay any rent. Even the installments on loans to be repaid monthly are generally lower than the rent which the workers used to pay.

Houses built by railway workers on their own cover a total floor space of 7,500 square metres in 1954 and 417,948 square metres in 1955. The coal-miners built 381,552 square metres in 1955. The number of workers' families who built their own houses in 1955 were: 2,095 in Chungking, 1,817 in Penki and 1,092 in Wusih.

WOMEN WORKERS ENJOY EQUAL RIGHTS

The Constitution of the People's Republic of China stipulates: "Women in the People's Republic of China enjoy equal rights with men in all spheres of political, economic, cultural, social and domestic life." These rights of the Chinese women workers have already become a reality.

Before liberation Chinese workers led a very hard life; but harder still was the life of the women workers. Not only was there no place for them socially and politically, but they were paid only half or two-thirds of the wages of men even when they did the same work. At that time the imperialists and bureaucrat-capitalists exploited them as one of the main sources of cheap labour. Even so, it was very difficult for a woman to get a job. For instance, a young textile woman worker Ho Chien-hsiu, now a nationally-famous model worker, was unable to find a job in any textile mill in Tsingtao. Tien Kuei-ying, the first woman railway driver in New China, had to make her living before liberation by fishing on the beach. The vast number of Chinese women, with their great potential knowledge and capacity for work, were obscured in the old China and had to wait for the new society to show their talents.

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China the rapid restoration and development of our national economy has opened a broad road for women to participate in social work. Over the past six years the number of women who have participated in industrial construction for socialism have greatly increased and the women workers and employees of the whole country in 1955 totalled 1,970,000, four times more than that in 1949.

In the peaceful construction of their country the women workers of New China have learned to handle the complex technique of modern industry. The number of skilled women workers is increasing daily among the growing and powerful ranks of the working class.

There were no women workers in the Shanghai machine industry in the past, but now women workers amount to 6.9 per cent of the total employed; there were only 11 skilled women workers in Tientsin in 1950, while this increased to 1,307 by 1953; there were very few women workers in the Anshan Iron and Steel Company in the past, while now we have nearly 7,000. Even in the newly-built seamless tubing mill, an up-to-date socialist industry, quite a number of young women workers are operating the complicated automatic machines.

A great many women workers in New China have become enthusiastic workers, showing great initiative in learning new jobs and becoming skilled workers. They have evolved many new methods to increase production. For instance, Wu Yu-lan, a woman worker in the electrical apparatus repairing works of the

Anshan Iron and Steel Company, designed two special relays, and improved the method of work on seven operations, whilst leading the recording machine repair group. Kuo Hsiu-yun, a young operator in the long-distance telephone exchange of the Tientsin Telecommunication Administration raised the efficiency of the telephone lines 22.62 per cent by using a new method. Mastering the principles of the spinning machines, Ho Chien-hsiu of Tsingtao No. 6 Cotton Mill worked out a scientific method of spinning. As a result of popularizing this method, the average amount of yarn produced by state-owned cotton mills all over the country has been increased 12.32 per cent.

Yang Ling-ying, a woman worker in the spooling room of the state-owned Shanghai No. 16 Textile Mill, has achieved full production records ever since the beginning of the First Five-Year Plan without a single day passed not having overfulfilled her production targets. During her three years in the spooling room, she was faultless in her work. Since 1953, she has been twice awarded as a model textile worker of Shanghai and was elected in 1955 to attend the National Conference of Young Builders of Socialism.

Many women workers have made great contributions to production and are awarded the title of model workers.

In 1954 there were 11,600 women model workers at workshop level in the factories and mines. For example, in Tientsin the women model workers on a municipal level in 1954 made up 10.24 per cent of the total number of model workers. The women model workers in Peking accounted

for more than 7.2 per cent of the total in 1954, and that was one and half times more than the previous year. In the textile industry more than half of the model workers are women.

New China's women workers not only receive equal pay for equal work, they also play the same part as men in factory administration. Many women workers have become directors of enterprises. Chao Kao-shih, head of a magnesite brick shop in the refractory material factory of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company, was promoted from leader of a team and chief of a section to her present position.

Li Chih-ying of the state-owned Peking No. 1 Cotton Mill was only a sixteen-year-old village girl in 1953, coming from the Laikuangying Agricultural Co-operative in the eastern suburb of Peking. Then she passed her examination to the cotton mill and was sent for training in the trade at the Tsingtao Textile Mill, where she made outstanding records and managed to help others in their studies. After joining the Peking No. 1 Cotton Mill, she was made a group leader of doffers in the spinning room and later on promoted to a team leader in charge of more than twenty workers. She united her team-mates and studied together good working methods to improve their skill. In 1954, she was sent to receive training as an assistant foreman. The only schooling she had in the village was one year in a primary school and literacy class, yet she managed to learn the principles and theories of cotton spinning as well as machine repairing and oiling. As she was assiduous in her studies, she became an assistant foreman in 1955 at

the end of four months' training. Another example is Shih Hsiao-mei, the deputy director of the Shanghai No. 1 Cotton Mill, who was only an ordinary woman worker some time ago.

In 1953 more than 1,680 women workers were promoted to leading positions, and in 1954, an additional 2,390 women workers were promoted.

It is stipulated in the Constitution of the People's Republic of China that marriage, the family, the mothers and children are protected by the state. In addition, women workers enjoy equal rights with men workers in labour insurance, and they are entitled to a total of 56 days' leave of absence from work before and after confinement. In cases of difficult delivery or the birth of twins, women workers are entitled to 70 days' leave. Full wages are paid during leave. Expenses for delivery and pre-natal examination are paid by the enterprise. In the case of child-birth, a woman worker or staff member, or the wife of a male worker or staff member, receives a maternity benefit of 4 yuan with which they can buy about a hundred eggs. Before liberation, it was entirely different. Pregnant women workers would be thrown out of employment. Han Ya-chin, a woman worker in Shenyang No. 7 Rubber Factory, for instance, had been dismissed four times because of pregnancy during 5 years. Such things have been done away with once for all.

In order to lessen the family burdens of women workers and to protect their health, the state sets as a rule that any enterprise covered by the labour insurance shall provide creches independently or jointly wherever there are over twenty children of less than

four years old belonging to the women workers and staff of that enterprise. Where conditions do not permit such a creche, nursing rooms for babies shall be set up wherever there are more than five babies. All expenses incurred for child welfare are to be borne by the state, and complete or partial subsidies are granted to working mothers who have difficulties to provide their babies with proper food. Factories and enterprises are doing what they can to lighten the work of expectant mothers, to provide extra nutrition and dietetic canteens, special rest rooms and even maternity rooms. There are special living quarters for working mothers, special buses for pregnant workers to and from the places of work and women's sanitation rooms attached to each workshop where there are women workers. Such facilities were unknown or rarely provided in the factories before liberation. For instance, among all the food processing and tobacco factories in Shanghai, only one tobacco factory had a small creche before liberation.

Since the promulgation of Labour Insurance Regulations, 2.2 million women workers and the wives of male workers received maternity benefits up to 1954. In order to help women workers to solve the difficulty of taking care of their children, an increasing number of nurseries and nursing rooms have been set up in the state enterprises. There were 1,380 nurseries in the country in 1952, 1,680 in 1953, some 4,000 in 1954, and 5,861 by the end of September, 1955, with accommodation for 173,090 children, in addition to small nurseries in other factories and enterprises.

In looking after the health of mothers and children, the trade unions always see to it that pregnant women are relieved from heavy work, and are given nutritious food. Dietetic canteens, rest rooms, pre-delivery waiting rooms, nursing rooms and dormitories for mothers are set up, and special buses are provided for pregnant women workers. In many enterprises special rest rooms are provided for women workers. In New China, not only do the women workers have the right of full equality with male workers in social and political life, but the wives of the workers also have these rights. The trade union organizations help them to raise their cultural level and political understanding. Dependents of the workers, who live near the factories or mines, have been organized to study in classes and discussion groups.

CULTURAL AND TECHNICAL ADVANCEMENT

Marching towards socialism, the Chinese workers have become workers with culture. In old China, the labouring people were deprived by the reactionaries of any right to education. Teng Yu-kai, a boiler house worker in Li Hua Rubber Factory in Changsha, Hunan Province, remarked that three generations of his family had never had any education. This was very common among workers in the past when 60 per cent to 80 per cent of the workers were illiterate or semi-illiterate. Since the establishment of the People's Republic of China, the state and trade unions have taken widespread measures to help the workers raise their cultural and technical level. Many illiterate workers have begun to learn to read and write. One result of studying at spare-time schools was that many workers are now able to read blueprints, make designs and calculations and able to learn improved methods of work and obtain scientific and technical knowledge from newspapers and booklets. They have played an important part in making new discoveries, utilizing the full potential of machinery, making rationalization proposals, and improvement of working methods, testing the quality of the products and increasing productivity. Wang Li-hsing, a miner in Chaoke-

chuang Colliery in Kailan, who was illiterate before liberation is now a student in junior middle class. After visiting the Anshan Technical Exhibition, he improved his tool and so increased productivity 7 times. Yang Hsien-chang, a worker in Shenyang Chemical Works, designed a petroleum pump by applying theories he learned in the physics class, and mechanized production. Ma Hsiao-fa, a fitter in the Tientsin Rubber Factory, put forward 35 rationalization proposals, one of them replaced imported carbon with home produced carbon, saving 800,000 yuan for the state and bringing down the cost of production by 20 per cent.

The All-China Federation of Trade Unions has decided to wipe out illiteracy among workers and staff in China within three years beginning from 1956. All the industrial unions have already mapped out their plans in this respect. The Electrical Workers' Trade Union and the Posts and Telecommunications Workers' Trade Union have decided to eliminate illiteracy among their workers and staff by the end of 1956, while the Railway Workers' Trade Union, the Trade Union of Workers of the First Machinery Industry and the Textile Workers' Trade Union have planned to eliminate illiteracy among their workers within two years.

In Shanghai and Hangchow, it is planned to achieve literacy among the workers and staff within two years. The Shihchingshan Steel Works in Peking plans to wipe out illiteracy among its workers in two years. Workers and staff of the Peking Agricultural Machinery Factory and the Chengtse Mine also plan

to wipe out illiteracy and semi-illiteracy in one and half years. They have decided to help the workers to reach the standard of a junior primary school graduate in the Chinese language and arithmetic, and to have about 90 per cent of the new literates enter senior primary schools.

Throughout the country there are 13 different trade union newspapers, the most important being the "Workers' Daily," organ of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, which now has a daily circulation of over 150,000 copies. The periodical "Workers of China," published by the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, now has a circulation of 290,000 copies. In 1954 the Workers' Press printed 219 kinds of books introducing the work and theory of the trade unions, the experience and lives of advanced workers, and other reading material for the workers. In 1955, 20 million copies of 271 kinds of books were printed.

In order to help the workers wipe out illiteracy, 1,100 spare-time schools had been set up throughout the country by 1954. The workers and staff members attending such classes totalled 276,432 in 1949; 764,199 in 1950; 2,026,381 in 1951; 2,344,272 in 1952; 2,587,967 in 1953; 3,050,000 in 1954.

In order to develop systematically the intellectual capacity of the workers and peasants who form the mainstay in our national construction, the Government has continued from 1950 to increase the number of short-term middle schools. A first batch of 1,680

students was graduated in 1953, out of whom 1,622 entered college or university, and in 1954 out of 4,187 graduates 3,297 entered college or university. It was impossible in the past for thousands of workers to go to high schools, or even to middle schools. Wang Yen-kai, a graduate from a miners' short-term middle school and afterwards student of the Peking Mining Institute, said: "In the old society, we were called 'black-boys,' but today we have become university students, and that is a thing we had not dared to dream of before!" But today, in a people's democracy led by the working class, it has become a reality that workers go to middle schools and universities. And all members of this army of reservists for socialist construction clearly realize that they have the duty to study and understand why they study, so that they can transform their ideals into a force for progress.

Short-term middle schools have increased in number—from 24 schools with 4,447 students in 1950 to 58 schools with 27,924 students at the end of 1953 and to 87 schools with more than 51,000 students in 1954. The proportion of industrial workers studying in schools is increasing yearly: in 1952 it was 14 per cent, in 1953, 23 per cent, in 1954, 40 per cent and in some places even higher. For example, more than 2,100 industrial workers were among the new students who registered in the 1954 summer vacation classes of eight short-term middle schools for workers and peasants in Shanghai, forming 70 per cent of the total. Out of the 184 graduates from the

short-term middle school attached to the Engineering College of Dairen in the 1954 summer vacation more than 96 per cent were industrial workers.

With the development of national economic construction, the Chinese workers have shown an increasing desire to raise their technical level. In this field, we must first of all be grateful to the disinterested assistance of the Soviet Union and the helpful advice of Soviet experts. We must also gratefully thank the People's Democracies for their technical assistance. From 1950 to 1954, at the Anshan Iron and Steel Company Soviet experts made more than 30,000 important proposals for rationalizing production, more than 10,000 proposals concerning capital construction and more than 8,000 proposals in design, making a great contribution to increasing the production potential of the Company. The Chinese workers have conscientiously learned new Soviet technique and methods to further raise their ability in national construction, as, for example, the Soviet method of blast furnace repair which shortens the time taken for general repairs from six months to one. We have also learned the Soviet method of iron ore mining which has increased the extraction rate from 60 per cent to 90 per cent. We have learned the Soviet method of mechanization of assembly in building which on an average has increased by about 30 per cent the speed of operations: today, it only takes 14 months to build a 12,000-kw power station. Many workers with the aid of Soviet experts have succeeded in mastering new technique and can, after a short time, operate new and compli-

cated machines. Hu Chao-sen, an apprentice technician working on blast turbines in the blast furnace works of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company, was able, thanks to the assistance and directives of Soviet experts, after two years to become familiar with the theory and operating methods, including the assembling, adjusting and working of the turbines, and has even independently assembled complete turbines. Liu Sze-chieh of the Peking airport, who was formerly a watchman, has become a skilled mechanic. Chen Teh-hsiang, formerly a car driver at the Harbin airport, has become a radio technician. Wang Ping-cheng, an unskilled worker in the former Joint Sino-Soviet Petroleum Company, has become a well-drilling engineer.

From 1953 to 1955, the Soviet Union trained for the Anshan Iron and Steel Company more than 360 technical personnel. With the warm and sincere assistance of the Soviet experts, the former Joint Sino-Soviet Non-Ferrous and Rare Metals Company has trained more than 5,000 skilled workers and technicians. Owing to the patient teachings of Soviet experts, 2,000 former cattle breeders or peasants from China's national minorities have been trained as skilled workers and competent technical personnel in the former Joint Sino-Soviet Petroleum Company.

The Chinese trade unions co-operate with managements to organize various technical courses, spare-time technical schools, technical research groups, technical lectures, and demonstrations of advanced methods. With a view to raising the technical abilities

of the workers, they have also arranged for old skilled workers to take young workers as apprentices, with contracts guaranteeing teaching and learning.

At present, there are more than 220,000 workers and staff studying in spare-time schools of higher education and secondary vocational training. Among the higher institutions of spare-time education, there are eleven technological night colleges. Night colleges and correspondence schools are established by such famous universities as the China People's University, Tsing Hua University, Harbin Polytechnical Institute, Peking Institute of Iron and Steel Technology, Peking Institute of Petroleum Engineering, Peking Mining Institute, Changchun Motor-cars and Tractors Institute.

The spare-time secondary vocational schools are set up by the different branches of industries concerned. Special courses are provided there for workers and staff of relevant factories and mines. The goal set for these students is to complete all the courses within four to five years, by the end of which they should become technicians of an intermediate grade.

From 1953 to 1955, there were 7,200 students graduated from the spare-time schools of higher and secondary education throughout the country. Of the first 35 graduates of the Fushun Coal Mining Night College, one has been promoted to the position of assistant director, 14 to the position of shop managers and the rest to other leading posts.

In 1954, more than 950,000 workers all over the country participated in spare-time technical

courses, and 109,000 workers took part in full-time study in technical schools. For example, during these last few years, the Anshan Iron and Steel Company has trained more than 24,200 skilled workers, and more than 45,000 skilled workers have been promoted to higher positions, out of which 740 skilled workers have been promoted to be technicians or engineers, and 593 workers promoted to leading positions in the management. From 1949 to 1953, the mining industry trained 21,541 administrative cadres, trade union and other cadres, 3,552 of whom have become engineers and technicians.

In old China, the workers had no right to education, neither did their children have any right to go to school. In New China not only are the workers themselves obtaining education, but also the number of workers' and peasants' children who benefit from education has increased rapidly. In 1954, the number of students from workers' and peasants' families constituted more than 80 per cent of primary school students, 58 per cent of middle school students and 20 per cent of university students.

FLOURISHING CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Rich and colourful cultural activities, and sports and physical training, have become an inalienable part of the spare-time activities of the Chinese workers.

Before liberation, the Chinese workers found great difficulty in even getting enough to eat and did not have the time or opportunity to take part in cultural and recreational activities, and it was useless to talk about how to develop their artistic genius. In New China, the workers, freed from worrying about their living conditions, have time and energy to take part in any kind of cultural and recreational activity they like.

The People's Government and trade union organizations make every effort to encourage the development of workers' spare-time cultural and recreational activities.

In these last few years, many good worker-writers have appeared. Tang Ke-hsin, a worker in the No. 6 Textile Mill in Shanghai, has written a book called "Spring in the Workshop" which was well received by a large working-class public, and has been translated into many foreign languages. Another worker, Sun Chen-hua of the Chinghua Press, Peking, has composed a song entitled "For a Happy Tomorrow"

which obtained a third prize in the National Songs Competition. Important works have been produced by workers in the fields of writing, painting, wood-carving. . . . Such works as "Gate Number Six," "Not a Cicada," or "The Hearts of Hundreds of Instructors Beat Together" are all lively literary creations by workers.

In 1954, 11,900 groups with 162,000 workers have been organized in spare-time activities, including dramatic, choral and dance groups.

In Peking there were 345 workers' literary and artistic organizations with 8,570 members in 1952, these increased to 496 with 17,183 members in 1953, and reached 1,117 with 24,404 members in 1954.

The rapid development of trade union clubs is one of the important factors guaranteeing the development of cultural and recreational activities of the workers on a large scale. After work, these clubs become the most lively and animated places in the factory. There are quiet rooms where the workers can read newspapers or books, or play chess. They can also participate in sports activities, or engage in choral or dancing rehearsals. The clubs regularly organize all kinds of exhibitions, introducing advanced methods, and models of inventions and innovations, arrange scientific talks, organize lectures on the international situation and internal affairs, film shows and performances by workers' dramatic groups.

Before August 1950, there were only 16 municipal clubs. But by the end of 1954 the number had increased to 1,260. Regarding the

smaller clubs such as primary trade union clubs, before 1950 there were only 773 but by the end of 1954, there were 9,200 basic trade union clubs, 2,700 workshop clubs and 255 hostel clubs.

The number of libraries has greatly increased: there are now 17,486 all over the country with a total of 24,532,082 volumes of books. In addition, mobile libraries visit workshops, construction sites and workers' flats, bringing to the workers the books and newspapers they like. There are in the whole country 25,986 mobile libraries.

The trade union film projection teams covering the whole country have over 1,200 16-mm. projectors and 400 35-mm. projectors, ten times more than in 1951. In 1954, 827 16-mm. film projection teams gave more than 114,000 film shows with a total audience of 110,000,000.

In order to successfully carry out the glorious task of fulfilling the First Five-Year Plan, the working class of China must have not only high political consciousness, education and technique, but also sound physique. Thus the trade unions of China pay great attention to the development of physical culture and sports among workers.

In 1954, the First National Trade Union Physical Culture Conference was convened under the joint sponsorship of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions and the Physical Culture and Sports Commission of the People's Republic of China. The Conference decided that a policy of active leadership and systematic development should be adopted for physical culture and sports among workers. It decided to give

priority to work in primary trade unions, the central task there being the further consolidation and extension of radio-broadcast physical exercises, systematic development of diverse forms of physical culture and sports activities and the establishment of sports societies. The Conference decided to strengthen political-ideological work, to recruit sports cadres in trade union organizations at all levels, to put the organizations on a sound basis, and to set aside for sports activities 10 to 15 per cent of funds for recreational and educational activities. It was also decided that suggestions should be made to the management of enterprises that an appropriate amount of money be set aside out of the director's fund for sports activities.

In October 1955, the Workers' First National Sports Meeting was held in Peking. Taking part in the Meeting were over 2,000 men and women competitors of seventeen industries, selected from competitions at all levels, right from the workshops and primary trade unions up to the industrial unions. Altogether more than one million workers took part in competitions of diverse forms at all levels, thus bringing about an unprecedented nationwide upsurge of sports activities among the workers.

Some of the workers and staff have broken national records in sports activities. For instance, Liang Shu-mei, a woman building worker, broke three national records in the 1954 National Swimming Contest. Liu Cheng-pang, a weigher at Yucheng railway station of the Tsinan Railway Administration, broke the national grenade-throw record in the 1953 National

Athletic, Gymnastic and Cycling Meeting. Sun Hung-hsia, a woman worker of the Harbin Electromotor Works, broke the women's national record for 800 metres; Liu Cheng, a woman worker of the Suiyuan Posts and Telecommunications Administration, set up a national record in the women's 80-metre low hurdles.

At the Workers' First National Sports Meeting, ten athletes established new national records in eight track and field events, in cycling and weight-lifting. National records for the men's 5,000 metres and 800 metres were broken respectively by Fu Sheng-hai and Li Chung-lin of the railway workers' team. Li Ping-cheng of the educational workers' team broke the men's national shot-put record which stood for nineteen years; Wang Yi of the same team broke the women's national javelin-throw record. Wu Shu-hua of the light industry workers' team set up a new record in the women's 1,500-metre cycling event. Li Feng-chin of the first machinery industry workers' team, Li Kuei-chih of the heavy industry workers' team and Wu Shu-hua of the light industry workers' team all set up new national records in cycling. Li Cheng-ching, Tsai Chang-hua and Hsu Kuo-ching of the light industry workers' team all set up new national records in weight-lifting.

Some workers were selected to become members of various national teams. For example, railway workers Yao Shih-chung, Cheng Shih-chun and Ma Jen-hua were selected for the national basket-ball and volleyball teams and represented China in international contests. Wang Chuan-yao of the posts and telecommunications workers' team represented China and

scored successes in the table-tennis contest at the World Festival of Youth and Students for Peace and Friendship held in 1953 in Bucharest.

By the end of 1954, 57,400 basket-ball teams had been organized in the factories and mines throughout the country, with 566,000 workers taking part in this game; there were also 21,100 volley-ball teams embracing 200,000 workers and 4,100 football teams with 72,300 workers in them. Athletic meetings were held in all parts of the country in which 541,000 workers participated.

According to the statistics of Peking, Harbin, Shenyang, Fushun and the Locomotive Sports Association, there were 116 sports associations for workers and staff in factories and mines in 1951, and 125 in 1952; in 1953 there were 1,151 sports associations and 162 athletic committees; in 1954, 1,470 sports associations and 220 athletic committees; and in August 1955, 1,437 and 304 respectively.

According to the available figures of eight cities (i.e. Peking, Shanghai, Tientsin, Canton, Wuhan, Shenyang, Harbin and Fushun), 2,958 sports activists among workers and staff received training in 1952, 1,490 in 1953 and 13,937 in 1954.

According to the statistics of five municipalities (i.e. Peking, Shanghai, Harbin, Fushun and Shenyang) and the Locomotive Sports Association, workers and staff taking part in radio-broadcast physical exercises numbered 194,961 in 1952, 378,593 in 1953, 604,118 in 1954 and 967,228 in 1955.

UNEMPLOYMENT IS BEING ELIMINATED

Before the liberation, as a result of the long years of aggression waged against China by the imperialists and the reactionary rule of the Kuomintang, serious unemployment existed in China. After the founding of the People's Republic of China, the People's Government began to solve the problem of unemployment inherited from the old regime. The People's Government not only carried out a policy towards the workers and staff of the bureaucrat-capitalist enterprises described as "keeping the same job and drawing the same wages" but also adopted a policy of "taking over" all the personnel in the former Kuomintang government offices and the educational institutions who were left over when the rule of the Kuomintang collapsed.

Moreover, in the last six years more than 32,650,000 unemployed have been given jobs by the government.

In New China, the state protects the jobs of the workers. Kuo Shou-jen, an old skilled worker of the Tientsin Motor Works, wrote a letter to his two brothers, which illustrates the feelings of the workers towards this new security: "I cannot remember in how many factories I had worked in Peking and Tientsin before the liberation, just trying to earn a living. No

matter where I worked, it was only a few months later that I became unemployed again. At that time I was no better off than a beggar. Even though I was a skilled worker, it did not help me. Now it is more than five years since Tientsin was liberated, did you ever find me looking around for jobs in these five years? In our factory, you can have an 'iron bowl' or a 'golden bowl' (a Chinese saying meaning a good, secure job. In the old society a job in the Customs was an 'iron bowl' job, and a job in a bank a 'golden bowl' job), if you will only take the job seriously. Not only do the skilled workers no longer remain unemployed, the state also trains the unskilled to become factory workers. In the years since liberation, the number of workers and staff in our factory has increased four or five times. Recently I took part in the discussion on the draft Constitution, and now I know that we have the right to work, and that the state guarantees our jobs. Thus our livelihood is, of course, ensured."

The Constitution of the People's Republic of China provides that "Citizens of the People's Republic of China have the right to work. To guarantee enjoyment of this right, the state, by planned development of the national economy, gradually creates more employment, and better working conditions and wages." The state has over the last few years taken a series of measures to make this right a reality.

With the development of the national economy, for those unemployed who possess the necessary qualifications to take jobs, the People's Government has tried its best to help them to find employment. For

those unemployed who temporarily cannot find jobs and have difficulty in maintaining a living, the People's Government has given them help in the form of relief grants, or by providing relief work, organizing them to make a living through temporary productive work, giving them training for new jobs, or sending them back to the villages to engage in agricultural production. At present, unemployment in the cities is being reduced daily and the number of workers who have qualifications but have not yet found jobs is now very small. Having taken a responsible attitude towards the unemployed, the People's Government will continue to adhere by this policy of helping the unemployed to find jobs, encouraging them to find jobs by themselves, or to make a living through temporary productive work and providing vocational training to young people who need it. As to those unemployed who temporarily cannot find jobs and have difficulties in maintaining a living, regular relief will be granted to them.

Since the latter part of 1955, because of the rapid development of agricultural co-operation in China's countryside, there arose the need of large numbers of primary and secondary technical cadres in such fields as agriculture, forestry, water conservancy, animal husbandry, veterinary medicine, production management, accounting, thus opening new perspective for employment.

In view of the rising tide of agricultural co-operation throughout the country, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party

of China put forward a draft National Programme for Agricultural Development, 1956-1967. The Programme points out that, as far as possible, all areas should, within a period varying from seven to twelve years, practically eliminate the most serious animal diseases. For this purpose, within seven years starting from 1956, veterinary stations should be set up in all the counties in agricultural areas and all districts in pastoral areas. The co-operatives should have personnel with basic training in the prevention and cure of animal diseases. Within twelve years starting from 1956 small hydroelectric power stations should be built where water power is available, each of them to serve one or several townships. In seven to twelve years from 1956, determined efforts should be made to wipe out wherever possible all diseases from which the people suffer most seriously. To this end every effort should be made to gradually promote health and medical services in counties and districts, and set up clinics in villages. In seven to twelve years, all townships and large co-operatives should have telephone service. Telecommunication equipment should be installed wherever it is needed.

In view of the need of personnel in all fields arising from the expansion of agricultural co-operation, the Programme further instructed that in the next five to seven years starting from 1956 steps should be taken in the light of local conditions to wipe out unemployment in the cities and provide work for all urban unemployed. This is quite possible. For instance, the Kashing region of Chekiang Province has

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asked for the immigration of 100,000 people. Kiangsi Province has also asked for half a million people. In this way, the unemployed left over from pre-liberation days will all get jobs in a few years as a result of arrangements made in the cities and countryside.

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WE ARE DETERMINED TO LIBERATE TAIWAN

Taiwan is an inalienable part of China, and this is a world-wide recognized historical fact. The Cairo Declaration and the Potsdam Declaration, both of them solemn international agreements, affirmed this fact. China's territorial integrity will never be complete as long as Taiwan remains to be liberated. Therefore, to liberate Taiwan, to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country is the firm policy of the Chinese Government and the entire Chinese people. This is our sacred task, and it is not only necessary for our security and territorial integrity, but also necessary for peace in Asia and the world.

On August 22, 1954, the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, on behalf of workers throughout the country, endorsed the joint declaration issued by all Chinese democratic parties and people's organizations concerning the liberation of Taiwan, which is the expression of the resolute determination of the six hundred million Chinese people.

While the people of our great fatherland are advancing in great strides towards socialism, our 8,000,000 fellow-countrymen in Taiwan are still suffering under the armed rule of a foreign power, leading a miserable life stricken by poverty, hunger and terror

and are unable to march forward together with the people of the country. The liberated Chinese people have a constant concern over the suffering of their compatriots in Taiwan. And the people in Taiwan, inspired by the growing prosperity on the mainland, are certainly looking forward to the day of returning to the bosom of their fatherland.

The Chinese working class and the Chinese people fully realize that only when we have liberated Taiwan and eliminated the traitorous Chiang Kai-shek clique will we have completed the historic task of liberating the whole of China. The liberation of Taiwan is inseparable to the cause of building socialism which is now under way in our country. Our brother workers and fellow-countrymen in Taiwan will certainly one day be brought back into the great family of peoples of our fatherland. The liberation of Taiwan is also important for safeguarding the security and territorial integrity of China and for defending peace in Asia and the whole world.

Workers throughout China are now working enthusiastically to raise production and practise economy, to ensure the fulfilment and overfulfilment of the state plan, in order to meet the demand of the front and the rear and support the cause of liberating Taiwan. Workers and staff members in many factories have started emulation campaigns on a wide scale with the slogan of supporting the liberation of Taiwan. For example, on December 31, 1954, workers of No. 8 open-hearth furnace of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company set up a new record in high speed steel making of big furnaces in the entire works for the

year 1954 after they had held a meeting against the so-called "Mutual Security Treaty" signed by the U.S.A. and Chiang Kai-shek. In the first nine days of 1955, workers of the No. 7 open-hearth furnace created a new record. The entire workers and staff in the steel department of the Taiyuan Iron and Steel Works pledged they would produce 8,000 extra tons of steel in addition to the fulfilment of the state plan for 1954 in order to support the liberation of Taiwan. Workers of the Shanghai No. 3 Iron and Steel Works put forward the slogan of "turning out one more ton of steel and rolling one more ton of steel means giving practical support to the cause of liberating Taiwan." Transport workers also pledge to fulfil the tasks for economic construction and for national defence and are ready to respond to the call of their fatherland to go to the forefront in the fight of liberating Taiwan whenever it is required. Road transport workers in Amoy, Fukien Province, have pledged to provide a plentiful supply of drivers and lorries whenever it is required and transport goods wherever they are ordered. The seamen have also pledged to do the same. Workers and staff in the Shanghai Power Plant have put forward a slogan promising an everlasting supply of electric current without a single second's stoppage.

In Wuyi Mountain Range, which separates Fukien from Kiangsi, lies the bottle-neck of the Yingtan-Amoy Railway, now under construction. In order to enable the railway to pass through, a young army of tunnel workers has launched the fight against this big mountain. They have never made a tunnel

in the past, yet difficulties failed to stop them. The following song they sang depicts their confidence and ambition:

High may the mountain be,
But our will is higher;
Great may the ridge be,
But our determination is greater.

The rocks may be as iron hard,
But our heroes spurn them as bean-curd.

The pioneers of this army of tunnel workers and the pneumatic drillers worked day and night, attacking the hard rocks. The highest record of drilling a 19-metre hole in one hour was reached. As soon as the drillers came out, the shotfirers at once rushed into the tunnel with explosives. Hsu Teh-chun, an outstanding shotfirer, challenged the drillers by saying that "we will explode as deep as you drill." This gave impetus to the rapid progress of work.

All these actions fully demonstrate the determination of the workers throughout the country to liberate Taiwan; and these actions no doubt will play an important part in its liberation.

The 600 million Chinese people are determined to liberate Taiwan. No force or obstacle in the world can make them waver. The Chinese people have two ways to liberate their own territory Taiwan; apart from liberating it by means of war, there also exists the possibility of liberating it by peaceful means.

Taiwan is the inviolable territory of China. The people in Taiwan are an integral part of the Chinese population. The liberation of Taiwan through whatever means is China's domestic affair, and the Chinese

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people will never allow any interference by foreign powers. No foreign power has a right in any case to interfere in this affair of the Chinese People's Republic. The Chinese people are determined to liberate Taiwan which will surely be restored to China.

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STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP AND UNITY

Unity and friendship is growing rapidly between Chinese trade unions and the working class in all parts of the world, and this is in the interest of the Chinese people and lasting world peace. Our foreign trade union friends who visited New China have praised the achievements of our economic construction and the rapid improvement in the material and cultural life of the working people in the short space of five years. They have also been much impressed by our determination to defend peace. We are fully aware of the numerous difficulties ahead and the many defects in our work. We consider the visits to our country by our foreign friends as inspections of our work which will not only inspire us and increase our confidence but will also help us to discover and overcome shortcomings and stimulate us to improve our work.

The Preamble of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China stipulates that "China has already built an indestructible friendship with the great Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the People's Democracies; and the friendship between our people and peace-loving people in all other countries is growing day by day. Such friendship will be constantly strengthened and broadened. China's policy of estab-

lishing and extending diplomatic relations with all countries on the principle of equality, mutual benefit and mutual respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, which has already yielded success, will continue to be carried out. In international affairs our firm and consistent policy is to strive for the noble cause of world peace and the progress of humanity."

The Chinese working class and trade union organizations are consistently advocating and firmly adhering in practice to the principle of establishing and developing friendly relations with the working class of all other countries on a voluntary basis, and to the principle of equality and mutual respect. During the past years, Chinese trade unions have taken part in various international meetings of workers, exchanged correspondence, publications and delegations with trade unions of other countries, and this has promoted mutual understanding, confidence, friendship and solidarity between us and also helped the inter-union unity within other countries.

During the period between 1949 and 1955, Chinese trade unions made contacts with working class and trade union organizations of 50 countries, sent 137 delegations totalling 769 members abroad to attend various international meetings of workers and to pay visits to other countries, whilst 1,021 delegates sent by working class and trade union organizations of other countries visited China on our invitation.

In 1954, the All-China Federation of Trade Unions invited over 200 trade union delegates from over 20

countries, including the Soviet Union, the People's Democracies, India, Japan, Indonesia, Burma, Ceylon, Great Britain, France, Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Israel and other countries to attend the May Day and National Day (October 1) celebrations and visit our country. They were of different political and religious beliefs, yet, after direct contacts, conversations and touring together, they found that they shared the same aspiration and demands for safeguarding world peace, for national independence, for trade union rights, for betterment of the workers' life and developing trade on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. All these have greatly helped to promote mutual understanding and friendship. We are of the opinion that possibilities do exist for the co-operation and unity of the working class of all countries, provided they have goodwill and respect for each other.

In May 1954, the Friendly Discussion Meeting of Asian Trade Unions was held in Peking, the capital of People's China, under the collective sponsorship of trade unions of Asian countries and their leaders, based on the principle of equality, self-determination, mutual respect and friendly discussion. The delegates of 17 trade unions from 9 countries in Asia with different political and religious beliefs who participated in this Meeting expressed their common aspirations and demands in a declaration which was passed unanimously. They all felt that this kind of discussion helped to promote mutual understanding, friendship and unity among trade unions of Asian countries and hoped that similar meetings would be held in future to promote working-class unity in Asia.

On May 18 and 19, 1955, a Discussion Meeting of Asian and African Trade Unions was held in Peking, in which 213 delegates of 71 trade union organizations from 15 countries participated. The Meeting was convened under the joint sponsorship of the Japanese Workers' Delegation, the Delegation of Indian Trade Unions and the Delegation of Indonesian Trade Unions to the May Day celebrations in China, with the unanimous approval of the heads of delegations of Asian and African trade unions. The delegates pointed out in their statements that the Meeting was an unprecedented grand gathering of Asian and African trade unionists. They emphasized in particular the need of safeguarding peace and opposing wars of aggression. While upholding peaceful utilization of atomic energy for the welfare of mankind, the delegates unanimously called on prohibition of the manufacturing, stockpiling and use of atomic and hydrogen bombs. They unanimously supported the Asian-African Conference and the resolutions and final communique it adopted, believing that the Conference reflected the profound historic changes in Asia and Africa, that it was a symbol of the desire for peace and unity shared by countries in these two continents. The delegates supported the principle of peaceful co-existence among all nations and pointed out that unity of the international working class is the guarantee to the maintenance of peace. They all expressed the desire to strengthen the friendship and unity of the people and working class of Asia and Africa in the struggle in defence of peace.

In November 1955, the All-China Federation of Trade Unions and the Japanese Trade Union Delegation to China, in an atmosphere of friendliness, held talks on various questions concerning the workers' movement. In these talks, the two parties came to a basic consensus of opinion and reached agreement on the question of friendship and unity between the trade unions of China and Japan, and, to a wider scope, on the question of friendship and unity among all trade unions of Asia and Africa.

On January 6, 1956, the First Machinery Industry Workers' Trade Union of China and the Delegation of the All-Japan Federation of Electrical Machine Building Workers' Union, in an atmosphere of amity, freely exchanged opinions on various questions concerning the workers' movement. In the talks, the two parties reached agreement on the strengthening and promotion of friendship and contact between electrical engineering workers of China and Japan.

The Third World Trade Union Congress pointed out correctly: "The restoration of international trade union unity is of important significance. This unity would further ease international tension and stop the competition in armaments. It would help to develop friendly contacts in cultural and economic affairs among the nations of different social systems. This unity would also help to increase peaceful production, lessen unemployment and improve the welfare of the people."

More and more workers and trade unionists have come to understand this truth and support it. The Chinese trade unions will continue to observe this

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principle of unity, to strive for strengthening friendly co-operation with the workers and trade unions of all countries of the world to fight against wars of aggression and for the preservation of peace in Asia and the whole world.

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